ABSTRACT OF INTERVIEW WITH JOE EMMET JENNINGS

July 9, 1963
TAPE 4, SIDE 2

Wollensak Index

1 Born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, came to California that year. 1936--graduated from San Jose State. 1927-1941--worked at Eimac.

1923--built a one-tube receiver. 1928, got amateur license. Discussion of Colonel Foster.

66 Discussion of work with Eimac. Jennings then started a company in San Jose in a 400 square foot chicken coop. Built plant to manufacture vacuum tubes. Also used a little garage nearby. Built vacuum condensors, using nickel sheet. Garrett Lewis worked there, gifted as a teacher. 1942--first contract. (Fred Gilmeister, Cal Townsend, Mr. Neal were his partners. Mr. King a partner later. 1952--incorporated.) First contract was for 1,000 capacitors, June, 1942, later 15,000. Early 1943--tooled up for tubes. Discussion of wartime specifications.

243 After war, market saturated, no orders. 1943--had worked on variable vacuum capacitor. 1947--got first patent on this. Development of the vacuum switch, started manufacture in 1948. Discussion of the mechamism of vacuum relay.

349 Discussion of switches as they developed over the years. Jennings describes the vacuum switch operation and advantages.

497 During 1943, Jennings Radio Co. had difficulty getting tungsten rod. Problems with inspectors, financing.

592 Discussion of men who worked with Jennings.

660 550-600 people employed now.

678 End of Jennings interview.

684 Discussion of electronic equipment which Jennings has given to the Perham collection. Covered in the inventory from items 217 to 223.

691 End of Tape 4, Side 2.